

**COMBINED DECLARATION, POWER OF ATTORNEY AND PETITION**

We, the inventors,

1.   Name:                   Lori Tassone HOLMES  
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     Post Office Address: 1088 Reed Street  
                             Neenah, Wisconsin 54956  
     Citizenship:         United States of America
2.   Name:                   Michael John NIEMEYER  
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                             Appleton, Wisconsin 54913  
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3.   Name:                   Lawrence Howell SAWYER  
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4.   Name:                   Robert Alan STEVENS  
     Residence:           Appleton, Wisconsin  
     Post Office Address: 2335 North Meade Street  
                             Appleton, Wisconsin 54911  
     Citizenship:         United States of America

declare that we have reviewed and understand the contents of the attached specification and claims and we verily believe that we are the original, first and joint inventors or discoverers of the invention or discovery in

**THIN, HIGH CAPACITY  
MULTI-LAYER ABSORBENT CORE**

described and claimed in the attached specification; that this application discloses and claims subject matter disclosed in our earlier Provisional patent application of which we hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e), Serial No. 60/257,328, filed 20 December 2000; that as to the subject matter of this application which is common to said earlier application;

that we do not know and do not believe that this invention was ever known or used in the United States before our invention or discovery thereof; that to the best of our knowledge and belief the invention has not been in public use or on sale in the United States more than one year prior to our application, or patented or made the subject of an inventors' certificate in any foreign country prior to the date of our application on an application filed by ourselves or our legal representatives or assigns more than twelve months prior to our application in this country; that we acknowledge our duty to disclose information of which we are aware which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.56(a); and that no application for patent or inventors' certificate on this invention or discovery has been filed by us or our legal representatives or assigns in any country foreign to the United States, except as follows:

None

#### POWER OF ATTORNEY

We hereby appoint the following attorneys to prosecute this application and transact all business in the United States Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

|                      |                 |                           |                 |
|----------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Michael J. Bendel    | Reg. No. 39,605 | Thomas M. Parker          | Reg. No. 42,063 |
| Patricia A. Charlier | Reg. No. 38,840 | Sebastian C. Pugliese III | Reg. No. 42,091 |
| Thomas J. Connelly   | Reg. No. 28,404 | James B. Robinson         | Reg. No. 34,912 |
| Gregory E. Croft     | Reg. No. 27,542 | Karl V. Sidor             | Reg. No. 32,597 |
| Ralph H. Dean        | Reg. No. 41,550 | Douglas H. Tulley         | Reg. No. 34,743 |
| Alyssa A. Dudkowski  | Reg. No. 40,596 | Sue C. Watson             | Reg. No. 38,850 |
| Randall W. Fieldhack | Reg. No. 43,611 | Patrick C. Wilson         | Reg. No. 31,893 |
| Steven D. Flack      | Reg. No. 40,608 | Paul Y. Yee               | Reg. No. 29,460 |
| Thomas M. Gage       | Reg. No. 33,385 | Thomas W. Speckman        | Reg. No. 22,617 |
| Scott B. Garrison    | Reg. No. 39,198 | Douglas H. Pauley         | Reg. No. 33,295 |
| Joseph P. Harps      | Reg. No. 28,854 | Maxwell J. Petersen       | Reg. No. 32,772 |
| William D. Herrick   | Reg. No. 25,468 | Mark E. Fejer             | Reg. No. 34,817 |
| Kyle K. Kappes       | Reg. No. 34,846 | Charles C. Kinne          | Reg. No. 31,631 |
| John P. Kirby, Jr.   | Reg. No. 25,348 | Nick C. Kottis            | Reg. No. 31,974 |
| Nancy M. Klembus     | Reg. No. 40,051 | Kevin D. Erickson         | Reg. No. 38,736 |
| Christos S. Kyriakou | Reg. No. 42,776 | Roland W. Norris          | Reg. No. 32,799 |
| Nicholas N. Leach    | Reg. No. 31,776 | Melanie I. Rauch          | Reg. No. 40,924 |
| William W. Letson    | Reg. No. 42,797 | Eric T. Krischke          | Reg. No. 42,769 |
| Thomas J. Mielke     | Reg. No. 31,399 | Margaret M. Crosby        | Reg. No. 40,969 |
| Douglas L. Miller    | Reg. No. 30,406 |                           |                 |

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**PETITION**

Wherefore we Pray that Letters Patent be granted to us for the invention or discovery described and claimed in the attached specification and claims, and we hereby subscribe our names to the attached specification and claims, Declaration, Power of Attorney and this Petition.

**DECLARATION**

The undersigned further declare that all statements made herein of their knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

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Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lori Tassone HOLMES

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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Michael John NIEMEYER

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Date

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Lawrence Howell SAWYER

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert Alan STEVENS